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After seeing his success there, it was easy to entrust the responsibilities of staff director to him when I became the chairwoman of the House Education and Workforce Committee.

Both then and now in the minority, Brandon has been a leader on the issues before the committee, including education and regulatory reform, government accountability, and this week on the issue of surprise medical billing.

It has been a joy to work with and learn from Brandon as a colleague and as an individual. While his parents clearly reared him right, his wise, beautiful wife, Kate, has been a key part of his recent life. She was, herself, a fine staff member in both the U.S. House and Senate and is here today. It is comforting to know they are passing on their principles to their sons, Cole and Hunter. Brandon and Kate are an example to us all.

As Brandon leaves the service of the House to embark on new responsibilities in the private sector, I thank him deeply for his years of dedication to the work of the House, to me and my constituents, and to our Nation.

He truly has lived up to the oath he swore when he first started with the U.S. House of Representatives, to “support and defend the Constitution of the United States,” and to “well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter.”

Mr. Speaker, I know he will continue to faithfully discharge the duties of his future offices, as he did so honorably for me. So, sadly, I discharge him to that work, so help him God.

TRUMP'S VISION FOR AMERICA'S FUTURE IS BLEAK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, the Trump administration released its budget proposal for fiscal year 2021. It was titled “A Budget for America's Future,” but its vision for that future is bleak.

Its vision of the future is the true American carnage that President Trump described in his inaugural address. It envisions an America that is less than it can or should be.

It envisions an America where working families are left to struggle while the wealthy continue to prosper. Rather than expanding economic opportunity to all, it would force families to choose between food and other essentials by cutting nutrition assistance by \$182 billion so more children and more people would go hungry in America, the richest nation on the face of the Earth.

It would completely eliminate the Community Development Block Grant, which helps local communities keep millions out of poverty.

Rather than ensuring healthcare is accessible to all, this budget cuts Medi-

caid by \$900 billion and slashes Medicare by half a trillion dollars, even though the President promised he would never touch the program's funding from that podium just a few days ago.

It would also cut research into life-saving cures at the National Institutes of Health by \$3.3 billion—penny-wise, pound-foolish. It cuts the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention by more than half a billion dollars, at a moment when we need to protect our people against the coronavirus and other public health threats.

Mr. Speaker, a true budget for America's future wouldn't increase the cost of attending college, as this budget does, by cutting student loan programs by \$170 billion. The education of our young people is our greatest investment in a successful future.

This budget discourages those who want to serve their communities by eliminating the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program. It would slash the Department of Education's budget by \$5.6 billion this year alone, while eliminating after-school programs for kids. Kids would be less safe, less educated.

Ignoring another of his pledges, this time on infrastructure, President Trump's budget proposes cutting the Department of Transportation by 13 percent this year and reducing funding for the Army Corps of Engineers by 22 percent, both agencies that deal with infrastructure.

It proposes a future devoid of innovation, as well, eliminating several programs that fund and promote research and innovation to support advanced manufacturing, new energy technologies, and entrepreneurship. On all of those, the President's budget sounds the trumpet of retreat.

This budget promotes a future that is less secure by reducing funding for public diplomacy and foreign aid. For 3 years now, and in our fourth year, our public diplomacy has been put at risk.

Moreover, this budget extends the 2017 tax cuts for the wealthy, while once again asserting the debunked and discredited theory that the tax cuts pay for themselves. They didn't do it in 1981; they didn't do it in 2001 and 2003; and they haven't done it now.

The evidence is clear: The President's tax cuts for the wealthy did not provide the trickle-down benefits that he promised or give our economy the kind of boost he said that it would. Yet, the administration is back again, promoting the notion that if we give tax cuts for the wealthy one more try, they will produce growth well above what every mainstream economist projects, period.

This budget is not a serious proposal, nor is it fiscally sustainable. Budgets are about priorities. The priorities in this budget, giving tax cuts to the wealthy while cutting the programs that help working Americans get ahead, are the wrong priorities for our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of talk about who is going to offer a budget. The President has offered a budget, and we have offered a budget. And that budget, Mr. Speaker, was incorporated in the appropriations bills signed by the President of the United States.

We now have an agreement on what the level of discretionary expenditures will be. So I want to tell my friends not only on the Republican side of the aisle, but I want to tell everybody in America that we have a budget. We have set forth our priorities, and those priorities were in the bills that we passed last year and the President signed.

The marginal increase in those is very, very small this year. That was the deal that was made between Secretary Mnuchin and Speaker PELOSI. We will pass our appropriations bills consistent with those priorities that we have already articulated at the numbers agreed upon, unlike the President of the United States who sent us a budget that completely abandoned the agreement we made in July, just 8 months ago, 7 months ago.

What is the point of making an agreement if it is looked at as a ceiling? It is like going and bargaining on a house and saying, “I will pay you \$100,000,” and then coming to the settlement table, and saying, “Well, I am really going to pay you \$90,000. That \$100,000 was just a ceiling.”

Mr. Speaker, we are going to pass through this House and send to the Senate appropriations bills that will represent the priorities of the American people, and that budget will be for the people. I am hopeful that, one more time, we can adopt those priorities, have them signed by the President, and have no drama about shutting down government, as we did not this past year. That is our responsibility. That is our duty to the American people.

CONGRATULATING LIBERTY CLARK ON MEDICAL DEVICE INNOVATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Liberty Clark in Elk River, Minnesota, for receiving an award from Enterprise Minnesota for attaining their ISO 9001:2015 certification.

Liberty Clark specializes in precision pad printing for medical device and industrial manufacturers, and this certification verifies to their clients that they are a reliable producer of high-quality products.

The medical device industry in Minnesota employs over 30,000 Minnesotans, driving our State's economy by producing devices that save lives. Recently, I was able to tour Liberty Clark and see firsthand how remarkable this company is and how it is contributing to the marketplace.

Liberty Clark's ISO certification, paired with the end-of-the-year repeal

of the medical device tax, are two important indicators that our best days of medical innovation are ahead for our manufacturers, as well as the millions of Americans who rely on lifesaving medical devices.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate everyone at Liberty Clark on achieving this certification, and I thank them for being one of the best manufacturers in Minnesota.

HONORING REVEREND GORDON GRIMM

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Reverend Gordon "Gordy" Grimm, who passed away last month at the age of 86.

Reverend Grimm was an ordained Lutheran minister and a leader in the field of addiction recovery in Minnesota. Through his work with the Hazelden Foundation, he pioneered the Minnesota model of treatment, which revolutionized addiction treatment and brought dignity to recovering alcoholics and addicts.

Reverend Grimm's work was recognized on the national stage. President Ronald Reagan selected him as a part of the White House Conference for a Drug Free America. He also served as a goodwill ambassador in Minnesota and alongside First Ladies Betty Ford and Rosalynn Carter at the United States Capitol.

Reverend Grimm was known not only for his work but for his kindness. A colleague described him as a man with "no sharp elbows, only open arms." His life's work touched so many in need.

We offer our condolences to his wife, Esther; his three children, John, Mary, and Jim; and the many who knew and were impacted by Reverend Gordon.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Gordon's legacy lives on through his family and all the people he helped. I thank him for a life well-lived.

RECOGNIZING BRAXTON BATTAGLIA, A TRUE MINNESOTA HERO

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Braxton Battaglia of Blaine, Minnesota.

Braxton is a 10-year-old gymnast who is currently fighting B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Despite the overwhelming nature of a diagnosis like this, Braxton has shown a drive to overcome by focusing on others and starting the TeamBraxl Fund, an effort designed to help other kids and families at the University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital.

Not surprisingly, Braxton has been recognized for her strength and heart for service. The University of Minnesota's gymnastics program presented her with the Abby Szott Courage Award, which recognizes an individual's incorporation of gymnastics to overcome major life obstacles. She also recently received her very own spot in the University of Minnesota Gymnastics Hall of Fame.

Braxton is an inspiration to everyone. While she is currently in remission, her will to fight will remain as strong as ever. Her chemotherapy continues until 2021.

We will all continue to pray for Braxton and her family.

Mr. Speaker, Braxton inspires us all to help others, even in the midst of our own challenges. I thank Braxton, and may God continue to bless her and her family in the months and years ahead.

CONGRATULATING SCANDIA INTERNET FOCUS GROUP

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Scandia Internet Focus Group for receiving the Good Neighbor Award for their efforts to secure additional funding for broadband expansion in Scandia, Minnesota.

Because of the focus group's efforts, more than half a million dollars will go toward building out internet service for more than 200 homes through the State's Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant Program.

Building out broadband to the last mile will give unserved and underserved communities access to the digital world, allowing access to vital educational resources, telehealth services, and an increasing amount of commerce done online.

Thanks to the Scandia Internet Focus Group, this service will meet and exceed the State's goals for 2022 and 2026.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Steve Kronmiller, Patti Ray, Beth Mohr, Eric Mohr, Aron Larson, Christopher Johnson, Chris Frymire, Jesse Pereboom, Travis Waite, Kristen Novaak, John Carney, and Andy Brogan.

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AMERICANS MUST BE PROTECTED FROM SURPRISE MEDICAL BILLING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, surprise medical bills can be financially devastating for families. Patients must be protected from this harmful practice.

As Congress considers solutions to this issue, I urge Speaker PELOSI to reject any proposals that include government price-setting.

Setting price controls on private transactions gives more power to the Federal Government and reduces access to healthcare.

Congress must pursue solutions that hold patients harmless, increase transparency, and resolve disputes that arise from surprise bills.

CONGRATULATING MELANI SHAFFMASTER

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Melani Shaffmaster of New Castle High School on being named the 2019-2020 Gatorade Indiana Volleyball Player of the Year.

This is Melani's second time honored with this title, having led her team to three straight volleyball State championships. Melani has had a remarkable high school career with thousands of assists, and kills, and hundreds of aces and digs. Not only has she been a mas-

ter on the court, but she has also maintained a 3.9 GPA.

Mr. Speaker, Melani is a true role model for any student athlete, and I wish her the best of luck in college and in her future.

CONGRATULATING RIVER VALLEY RESOURCES ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate River Valley Resources on celebrating their 30th anniversary.

On a recent visit to RVR Clearinghouse in Madison, Indiana, I was able to witness the wonderful services that are provided to both adults and children. RVR currently provides programs and services in 14 counties in southeastern Indiana and central Indiana.

RVR strives to create a competitive workforce through job readiness training, life skills management, job placement, and is also a Child Care and Development Fund voucher agent in 12 counties.

Mr. Speaker, I thank RVR for the wonderful work that they do, and I wish them a happy anniversary.

RECOGNIZING MATT PEIFFER

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Muncie resident and Ball State student Matt Peiffer. His Muncie-based organization, A Voice for Kids, is one of 30 winners in T-Mobile's second annual Changemaker Challenge.

The Changemaker Challenge asks kids aged 13 to 23 to come up with ideas to help their local communities. A Voice for Kids advocates for the improvement of the foster care system.

A former child in Indiana's foster system, Peiffer has already helped improve the system, and this award shows that people around the Nation are noticing his good work.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Matt and A Voice for Kids for making their community and the Hoosier State a better place.

CELEBRATING SHELBYVILLE ROTARY CLUB'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Shelbyville Rotary Club for celebrating 100 years of service.

The rotary club has been a beacon of service in the Shelbyville community for this century. Last year alone, the club raised funds for the Shelbyville Boys Club Youth Football program, Pantry Pals, SCUFFY, the Blue River Community Foundation, and Girls Inc. The rotary club also provides scholarships for every high school in Shelby County.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the members of the Shelbyville Rotary Club for their service and dedication to Shelbyville and congratulate them on their 100th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING JUAN GUAIDO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, last week Venezuelan interim President Juan Guaido was welcomed with